

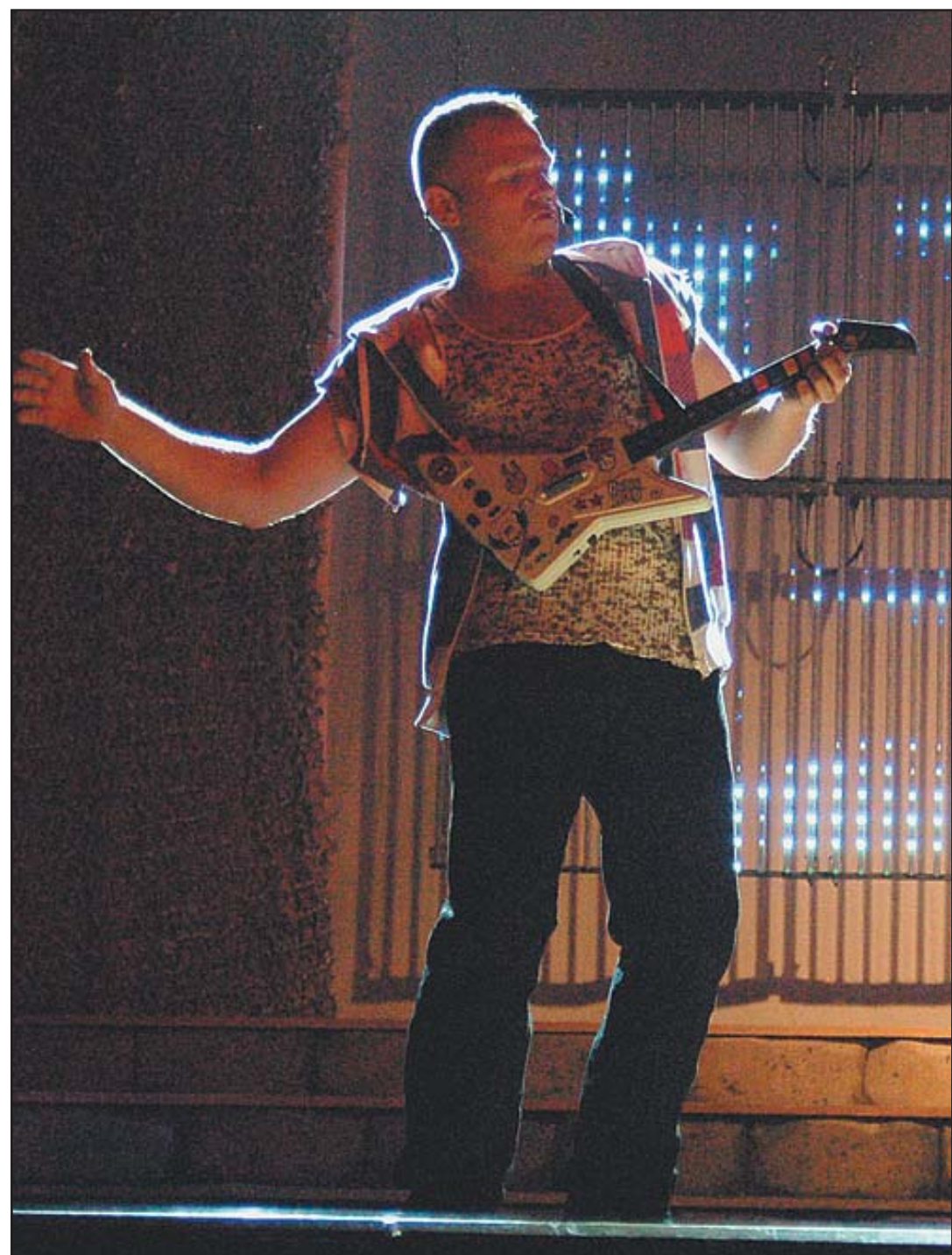
Spectrum

Soldier Show takes the stage

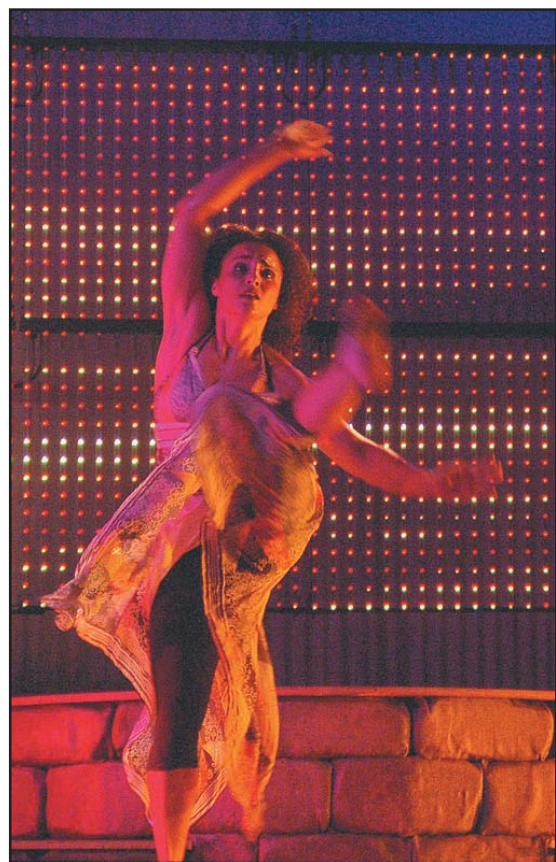


Photos by Charmain Z. Brackett

The U.S. Army Soldier Show tried to give the audience a feeling of being downrange with deployed Soldiers in this number.



Sgt. Joshua Hamilton plays Guitar Hero on stage as the graphic of the popular video game flashes on the screen behind him.



Cpl. Amber Jones danced to Apologize.



Fort Gordon's Spc. Phillip Harris (a 2007 Soldier Show performer) made a special appearance during this weekend's show and performed a spoken word piece.

Charmain Z. Brackett
Correspondent

As a Soldier in Advanced Individual Training at Fort Gordon a few years ago, Sgt. Joshua Hamilton sat near the back of Alexander Hall and watched the U.S. Army Soldier Show in awe.

"I went to the Soldier Show not having a clue what it was. Afterwards I asked to come the next day. It was so phenomenal," he said.

After returning from his deployment to Iraq, Hamilton, a Joint Network Node operator with the 15th Sustainment Brigade at Fort Hood, Texas, got his information package in the mail as soon as he could.

"I wasted no time," he said.

Hamilton performed in several numbers during the U.S. Army Soldier Show, which stopped at Fort Gordon June 28-29.

The weekend's performance represented the 25th anniversary tour of the modern day Soldier Show, which began around a campfire during World War I. It has had several incarnations since its inception.

Soldiers like its motto of entertainment for Soldiers by Soldiers.

"It's really a great experience," said Sgt. First Class Earnest Baskin, who is with the 3274th U.S. Army Reserve Hospital, Fort Gillem, Ga.

Baskin has recording experience in the civilian world and wanted to expand his performance experience into the military realm.

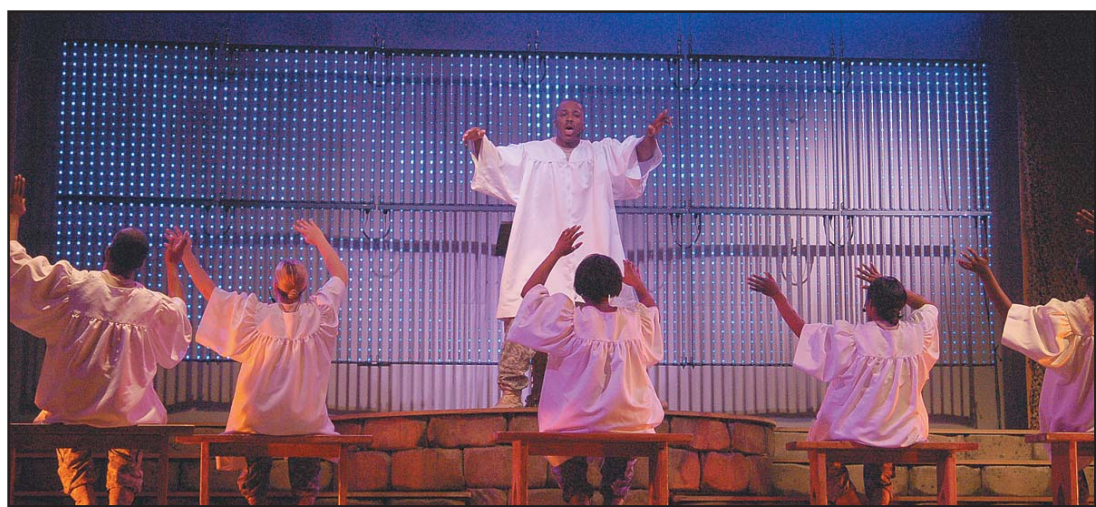
Not only was this the 25th anniversary of the Soldier Show, this year marks the 25th anniversary of Michael Jackson's Thriller, to which Soldiers paid tribute in a number only Soldiers could do.

Cpl. Amber Jones did her best Michael Jackson moves in the number which combined lighting effects and incorporated some of Jackson's original video to bring a rousing ovation from the audience. Two Soldiers brought down the ghouls haunting the Jackson character.

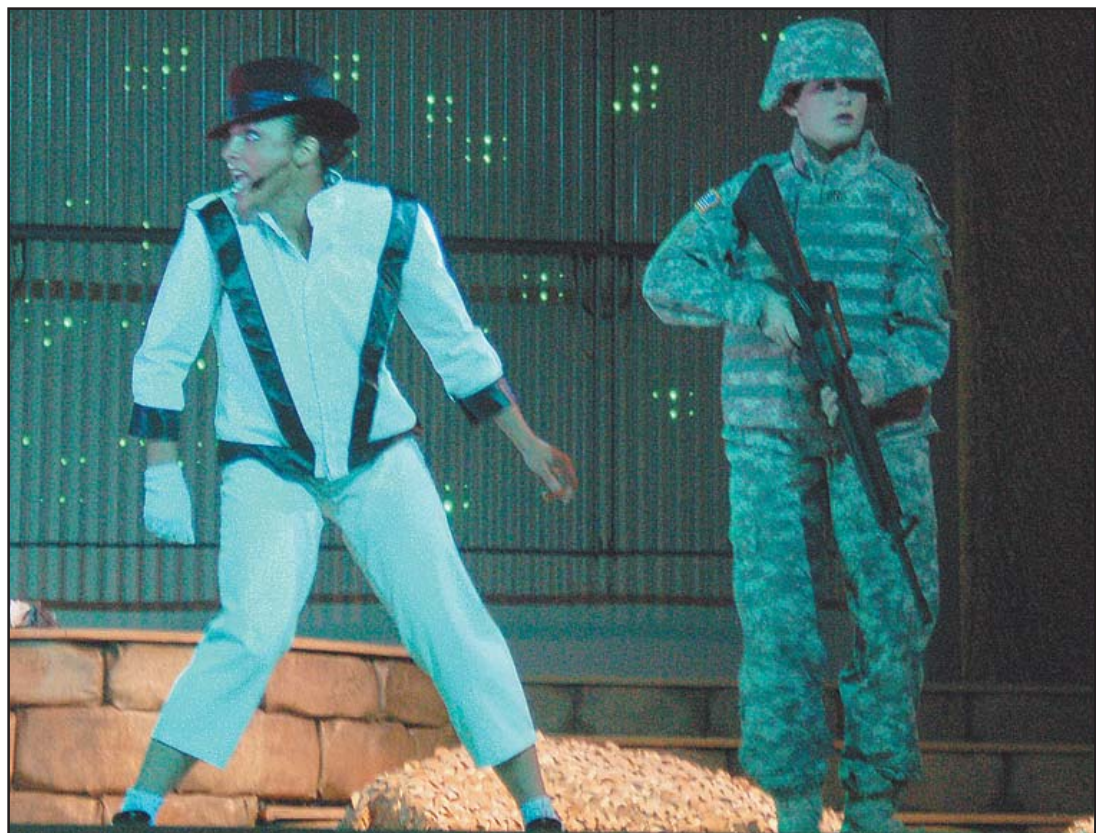
Another crowd pleaser was the finale, which is also a favorite of cast members.

"I really love the end – the whole patriotic part," said Spc. Marlaina Cutter, a dental assistant with Fort Stewart's Dental Activity. "We are here to protect and defend our country, and this sheds a little light on that."

Fort Gordon's Spc. Phillip Harris, who toured with the Soldier Show in 2007, made a special appearance during the finale to give his spoken word piece on freedom.



Soldiers sang a gospel medley during the 2008 Soldier Show.



Cpl. Amber Jones does her best Michael Jackson in the Soldier Show version of Thriller.